

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
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AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 0061

FOR ASST SECTY TODMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, NU
SUBJECT: YOUR VISIT TO NICARAGUA

1. I WELCOME YOUR PLANNED VISIT TO NICARAGUA AND BELIEVE IT IS
TIMELY. I HOPE YOU AND WADE MATTHEWS WILL PLAN TO STAY AT THE
RESIDENCE. BELOW ARE MY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR SCHEDULE AND
ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE STATEMENTS. BY SEPARATE CABLE I AM SENDING
TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION, AND QUESTIONS FOR YOUR MEETING WITH THE PRESS.

2. SCHEDULE: I PROPOSE THAT YOU VISIT THE EMBASSY SHORTLY AFTER YOUR
ARRIVAL FOR A MEETING WITH THE COUNTRY TEAM. YOU COULD RECEIVE A
CONCISE RUNDOWN ON THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES YOU WILL BE DEALING
WITH DURING YOUR LATER MEETINGS AND WE WILL ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU
MAY HAVE. WE WOULD LIKE THEN TO ASK YOU TO ADDRESS A FEW REMARKS TO
THE ENTIRE LOCAL AND AMERICAN STAFF. THERE SHOULD BE TIME BEFORE
LUNCH FOR A COURTESY CALL ON FERNANDEZ QUINTANA. PRESIDENT SOMOZA
WILL PROBABLY WISH TO HOST A LUNCHEON IN YOUR HONOR. IN THE AFTERNOON
WE WILL ARRANGE MEETING WITH ARCHBISHOP OBANDO Y BRAVO AND THE CON-
SERVATIVE PARTY LEADERSHIP AND UDEL LEADERSHIP (INCLUDING LA PRENSA
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EDITOR). IN THE EVENING I WILL HOST A STAG RECEPTION WHICH WILL
INCLUDE KEY POLITICAL, MEDIA, GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS, AND OTHER
OPINION FORMERS. WE ARE WORKING ON A GUEST LIST WITH ABOUT FIFTY
NAMES. FOLLOWING YOUR DEPARTURE STATEMENT AT THE AIRPORT, WE
BELIEVE YOU SHOULD TAKE QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS.

3. ARRIVAL STATEMENT: WHILE AMBASSADOR TO COSTA RICA I VISITED THIS

CITY WHICH, DESPITE THE TRAGIC EARTHQUAKE OF 1972, REMAINED FUNCTIONING AS THE GOVERNMENTAL, INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL CENTERS OF NICARAGUA. I HAVE LOOKED FORWARD TO AGAIN VISITING THIS IMPORTANT REPUBLIC LOCATED IN THE HEART OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, WHOSE TROPICAL LANDSCAPE IS NOTED FOR THE SPECIAL CHARM OF ITS LAKES AND VOLCANOES AND AS THE HOMELAND OF RUBEN DARIO WHOSE FAME IS INTERNATIONAL.

SINCE BECOMING ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR LATIN AMERICA THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES HAS UNDERTAKEN AN INCREASED EMPHASIS ON COOPERATING WITH OTHERS TO PROMOTE RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONALLY AGREED STANDARDS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE FOSTERING OF FOSTERING OF DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT. THIS IS A SPECIAL CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ME.

DURING MY BRIEF VISIT I HOPE TO MEET WITH LEADERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC AND OTHER NICARAGUANS ENGAGED IN THE SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THIS COUNTRY.

4. DEPARTURE STATEMENT: ALTHOUGH MY VISIT TO MANAGUA HAS BEEN BRIEF, I FEEL I HAVE LEARNED A GREAT DEAL AS A RESULT OF THE CONSTRUCTIVE TALKS I HAVE HAD WITH THE PRESIDENT, THE FOREIGN MINISTER, ECCLESIASTICAL REPRESENTATIVES; A BALANCED GROUP OF OPPOSITION POLITICIANS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

OUR DISCUSSIONS WERE OPEN AND CANDID AND COVERED A WIDE RANGE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBJECTS OF INTEREST AND IMPORTANCE TO BOTH NICARAGUA AND THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND THE ADVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THESE DISCUSSION SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR RESPECTIVE POLICIES AND POINTS OF VIEW.
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